



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
February 23, 2015

PRESIDING: Peter Brunner, Chair

Members Attending

Barbara Catlin
Roxanne Farrar
Deborah Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
Carolyn Rimes
Sang K. Shin
Sharonlee Vogel
Laureen Wylie

Not Present

Ted Meyerson

Guests

Angela Boyter

Office on Aging

Peggy Hoffman

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Approve Agenda

Pete Brunner requested that the discussion of the Legislative Breakfast be removed from the agenda as Ted Meyerson was not in attendance. Andrew Monjan requested that the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) be added to the agenda. Sharonlee Vogel moved to accept the amended agenda and Laureen Wylie seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Sharonlee Vogel moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and Eletta Morse seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Chair's Report

Pete Brunner began the meeting by introducing Angela Boyter, a candidate to fill the vacancy left by Deborah Adler's resignation.

Budget/Demographics

Pete informed the Commission of a discrepancy in the expected new student enrollment for Howard County Public School System. Current county and state demographic studies indicate that the school age population is leveling off and will become a zero growth population, yet the Columbia Flyer has reported that HCPSS Superintendent Renee Foose is submitted a budget with an expected increase of 1630 students for next year. Pete spoke with Danielle Goodwin (Department of Citizen Services) and Jeff Bronow (Department of Planning and Zoning) about the discrepancy. While an explanation of the discrepancy could not be found, the Department of Planning and Zoning will follow up on the numbers and will discuss with County Administration.

Office on Aging Report

Bain Center

On Wednesday, February 17, a sprinkler pipe burst in the Bain Center causing flooding and significant damage. The center will be closed for 2-4 weeks so that repairs can be made and flooring can be replaced. Bain Center staff has been relocated to the Ascend One building and are working to reschedule as many programs as possible.

Ellicott City Annex/Fitness Space

Peggy Hoffman provided a handout on the proposed cost of both a fitness center pass for the new Ellicott City Annex as well as a "class pass" which would allow participants to attend fitness classes scheduled for the new space.

The Annex is on schedule to be opened in March. At that time, renovations will begin on the existing Ellicott City Senior Center, which will necessitate closing the building to the public. In the existing center flooring will be upgraded and the Senior Center Plus space will be expanded.

Master Plan Update

A draft of the report has been completed and the Office is working with KGRW on revisions and edits. Once those revisions have been made the draft will be sent to County Administration for review. The draft will also be presented to the Advisory Committee and Working Group prior to its public release.

Administrator Update

The County is under a hiring freeze, so the vacant administrator position will probably remain unfilled for the remainder of the fiscal year.

State Budget

Peggy Hoffman reported that she attended the MDOA budget hearing. Secretary Kramer anticipated that while there would be a cut to state grants, the cut would not exceed 2%.

Recruiting of New Commission Members

The Commission discussed the upcoming vacancies and the process for filling vacancies. Members were encouraged to reach out to candidates and encourage them to submit resumes to County Administration.

Report on Meeting with the Transition Team

Susan Hailman reported on the Commission's meeting with the Kittleman Transition Team. Susan and Julia Mattis attended the meeting and presented the points the Commission had agreed to cover:

- Strong support for Mr. Kittleman's platform statements related to "accommodating the pending population surge to main its reputation for being one of the best communities in which to age in place."
- Provided documentation to support the transition to a new Department of Aging, including data on population changes, socio-economic demographics and self-reporting of needs that differ in the under and over 75 year old age cohorts. This included discussion of the contribution to the tax base provided by senior residents and the changing demographics of the community related to school population vs. senior needs.
- Recommendations on managing the Community Service Partnership grant program to ensure more equitable representation of programs that benefit aging residents.
- Highlight the need for strong administrative functionality to manage fiscal resources that might come from new resources and require significant accountability.

Formation of a Legislative Committee

The Commission discussed the formation of a committee to follow legislative issues and propose action to the Commission as a whole. Sharonlee Vogel shared information on how this committee structure proved beneficial in the past. Bob McLaughlin expressed interest in leading the effort and Julia Mattis expressed interest in participating on the committee. Bob and Pete Brunner will working on expanding the idea and will report back at the March meeting.

MDCOA Report

Sharonlee provided information on the MDCOA's meeting with the Acting Secretary of Aging, Rona Kramer. With her background in the House of Delegates, the MDCOA felt that Acting Secretary Kramer would be able to work well with the state legislature.

The MDCOA is following a bill before the House regarding Type C (Fee for Service) CCRCs. The bill would require actuarial studies of the CCRC's resources.

The MDCOA will be supporting universal design.

Following Sharonlee's report, the Commission engaged in discussion of CCRCs and the types available. As the amount of information can be overwhelming, the COA would like to look into creating an educational seminar on CCRCs. Sharonlee and Eletta will bring more information to guide a discussion on this topic at the March meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

Andrew Monjan shared information on the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC), a stakeholder group run by the Howard County Health Department. The LHIC boasts more than 60 member organizations and is focused on improving access to health care and health care outcomes. Currently there are several smaller working groups on Access to Care, Behavioral Health, and Healthy Weight; a Healthy Aging group is in the works. Andrew recommended that the Commission on Aging become involved in the Healthy Aging group. Peggy Hoffman shared that the Office is in talks with the Healthy Howard on how to formalize the group. Andrew is willing to take the lead on the project, but would welcome input and participation from other

commission members. Andrew will also see if a presentation on the effort could be made at an upcoming Commission meeting.

For the March meeting, Pete requested members consider the potential meeting with the County Council-what type of venue would be appropriate and what are our goals as well as general COA priorities for 2015.

Adjournment

Sharonlee Vogel motioned to adjourn. Barbara Catlin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: March 16, 2015, Ellicott City Senior Center Annex, 7pm